

Current Happenings with In Home TN in Upper Cumberland

Current Areas of Focus:

The region currently is working on the priorities of supporting the county-by- county Community Advisory Boards (CABs) as well as focusing on Alcohol/Drug Treatment/Services and Domestic Violence services.

The **Community Advisory Boards** are made up of individuals within each county who meet regularly to support the work of the Department of Children's Services through suggestions on policy and practice changes and financial/material assistance for children and families involved with the child welfare system. Since the initiation of In Home Tennessee in Upper Cumberland, an increased focus has been placed on these important boards.

In recent months, the CABs in this region have created alcohol and drug trainings for hospital and school staff, among others, and held fund-raiser events to support the needs of local children and families.

The **Alcohol and Drug Treatment/Services workgroup** has been meeting consistently for more than five years. Goals have been identified to include developing a resource list for staff and families and collaborating with the CABs and the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth to create and deliver free Alcohol/Drug education for community members. The group also partnered with local CABs to create care packages to be given to new Neonatal Alcohol Syndrome (NAS) babies/mothers as they discharge from the hospital.

Most recently, the group has been working to create a care model for Neonatal Alcohol Syndrome (NAS) babies/mothers to receive in-home medical and therapeutic services to assist families in properly caring for their new babies, and ultimately, prevent more children from coming into state custody. This workgroup has also recently partnered with the *Governor's Children's Cabinet* to pilot a process where multiple government divisions involved with a case collaborate to have more unified meetings with families, thus causing less disruption and stress to a family's daily life.

The **Domestic Violence workgroup** will begin meeting again in summer 2015. Previously, the group partnered with a local women's shelter to provide a day-long, in-depth seminar on the causes and effects of domestic violence in the home, as well as the impact it has on children's physical and emotional development.

Get involved!

Contact the Regional Project Lead, Jessica Tucker, at Jessica.Tucker@tn.gov to get involved with In Home Tennessee in Upper Cumberland.

Last updated: May 2015